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FOREST RESEARCH NOTES

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EXPERIMENT STATION *

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PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF PRODUCTION OF LUMBER, LATH, AND SHINGLES IN CALIFORNIA, 1942

In cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, and the War Production Board, the Forest Service presents herewith its annual preliminary statement of lumber production in California and Nevada. Since this statement is based upon incomplete returns it will differ somewhat from subsequent final production statistics to be compiled by the Bureau of the Census.

The estimate of 1942 production shows that the lumber industry in California, despite adverse effects of manpower and equipment shortages and bad weather in the spring of 1942, responded to the unprecedented wartime demand for lumber by producing only a fraction less than was sawed in the all-time peak year of 1941.

The production estimated in tables 1, 2, and 3 is based upon reports from 207 of an estimated total of 239 active sawmills in the California pine region and on 59 of an estimated total of 75 active mills in the redwood region. The coverage was such that in the pine region the sampling error of estimated total production, expressed in percentage and based upon ± one standard error, was 0.2, while the corresponding error in the redwood region was 0.5.

For the entire State and all species, the estimated production of 2,322,170 M feet b.m. (table 1) is only 0.4 percent less than total State-wide production in 1941. With the exception of redwood, Douglas fir, and white fir there was a decrease in the cut of all species ranging from a 2.7 percent decline in incense cedar to a 19.3 percent decline in Sitka spruce. The most significant decreases were the 3.7 percent decline in ponderosa pine and the 12.6 percent decline in sugar pine. Although the production of redwood rose 1.1 percent from 1941, the most outstanding increases were a rise of 40 million feet in the cut of Douglas fir, equivalent to a 16.2 percent increase, and a rise of 30 million feet in production of white fir, equivalent to a 30.1 percent increase. The estimated production of lath and shingles declined 5.2 percent and 35.7 percent, respectively. Lumber stocks dropped from 846,854 M feet b.m. on December 31, 1941, to 616,441

* MAINTAINED AT BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

M feet b.m. on December 31, 1942, or a decrease of 27.2 percent. It is estimated that there were 103 idle sawmills in the State in 1942, most of which were of low potential output.

In the pine region the estimated lumber production in 1942 was 1,730,931 M feet b.m. (table 2), or approximately 3 percent below the output in 1941. There were declines in the output of ponderosa pine, sugar pine, incense cedar, and big tree, but increases in the production of Douglas fir and white fir. The sampling error for species production was less than 2 percent for all species except incense cedar and big tree. Lumber stocks declined about 140 million feet in 1942. The 44 mills which cut more than 10 million feet apiece produced 86.8 percent of the total lumber sawed in the region, whereas the 131 mills producing less than 1 million feet each cut only 2.1 percent of the regional production.

In the redwood region the estimated 1942 lumber production of 591,239 M feet b.m. (table 3) was approximately 9 percent greater than the 1941 output. The most outstanding development was the increase of roughly 30 million feet in the production of Douglas fir. The cut of redwood rose about 5 million feet, and the production of white fir rose slightly. Other species showed decreases. The sampling error was 0.7 percent for redwood and 2.4 percent for Douglas fir. Lumber stocks decreased about 85 million feet. The 9 mills cutting more than 10 million feet apiece produced 88 percent of the regional cut, whereas the 38 mills cutting less than 1 million feet each produced 2.3 percent of the regional cut.

Table 1.- Production of lumber, by kind of wood, and of lath and shingles
California and Nevada 1/, 1941 and 1942

Species	Lumber production (M feet, b.m.)				Change in 1942 from 1941
	1941		1942 (estimate)		
	Quantity	Percent	Quantity	Percent	Percent
Mills sawing 50 M feet or more					
Ponderosa pine	1,177,513	50.5	1,133,565	48.8	- 3.7
Redwood 2/	455,449	19.5	460,631	19.8	+ 1.1
Sugar pine	299,378	12.8	261,661	11.3	- 12.6
Douglas fir	248,272	10.7	288,596	12.4	+ 16.2
White fir	100,965	4.3	131,331	5.7	+ 30.1
Incense cedar	36,787	1.6	35,791	1.5	- 2.7
Port Orford cedar	6,195	0.3	5,132	0.2	- 17.2
Sitka spruce	4,582	0.2	3,696	0.2	- 19.3
Alder	1,301	0.1	1,176	0.1	- 9.6
Other species 3/	598	0.0+	0	0.0	-100.0
Mills sawing less than 50 M feet					
All species	853	0.0+	591	0.0+	- 30.7
Total					
All species, all mills	2,331,893	100.0	2,322,170	100.0	- 0.4
Lath (thousands)	17,175		16,280		- 5.2
Shingles (squares) 4/	100,937		64,933		- 35.7
Stocks of lumber, Dec. 31	846,854		616,441		- 27.2

1/ Combined to avoid disclosing output of individual establishments.
2/ Includes big tree (Sequoia gigantea) in pine region.
3/ Hemlock, western red cedar, oak.
4/ Includes data for shakes reported as such.

Table 2.- Estimated production of lumber, by kind of wood and class of mill, and of lath and shingles
California Pine Region 1/, 1942

Class of mill	Active mills	Sampled mills	Lumber sawed (M feet, b.m.)								Sampling error 2/ of estimated total production	Lumber on hand		Lath	Shingles
			Ponderosa pine	Sugar pine	Douglas fir	White fir	Incense cedar	Big tree	Total quantity	Total percent		Jan. 1, 1942	Dec. 31, 1942		
	No.	No.									Percent	MBM	MBM	M pcs.	Squares
8 (50 MM and over)	7	7	514,747	104,288	24,517	30,696	13,451		687,699	39.8	0	188,590	138,492	6,455	0
7 (25 MM to 50 MM)	12	12	226,467	94,681	28,165	44,938	5,531		399,782	23.1	0	180,671	142,659	1,770	0
6 (15 MM to 25 MM)	13	13	150,822	26,511	51,557	27,430	5,222		261,542	15.1	0	110,921	92,170	0	0
5 (10 MM to 15 MM)	12	12	101,594	14,149	26,626	10,345	248		152,962	8.8	0	61,841	54,104	0	0
4 (5 MM to 10 MM)	10	10	35,817	11,124	5,044	9,114	7,428		68,527	4.0	0	14,531	10,004	0	0
3 (1 MM to 5 MM)	50	43	80,929	9,151	25,327	4,516	3,252	34	123,209	7.1	2.6	37,630	18,804	0	0
2 (500 M to 1 MM)	31	24	13,288	757	6,333	1,523	342	32	22,275	1.3	2.0	3,214	1,374	0	0
1 (50 M to 500 M)	77	63	9,174	996	2,451	1,321	317	171	14,430	0.8	3.7	1,875	1,051	0	293
0 (Under 50 M)	23	19	340	26	109	22	8		505	0.0+	5.4	31	36	0	169
Shingle	4	4									0			0	592
All classes	239 3/	207 3/	1,133,178	261,683	170,129	129,905	35,799	237	1,730,931	100.0	0.2	599,304	458,694	8,225	1,054
Sampling error 2/ of estimated total production. (Percent)			0.3	0.4	1.7	0.6	2.4	20.2	0.2						

1/ See footnote 1, table 3.
2/ Sampling errors are based on ± one standard error.
3/ Number of idle mills, estimated to be 84 (including one shingle mill), not included in totals.

Table 3.- Estimated production of lumber, by kind of wood and class of mill, and of lath and shingles
California Redwood Region 1/, 1942

Class of mill	Active mills	Sampled mills	Lumber sawed (M feet, b.m.)										Sampling error 2/ of estimated total production	Lumber on hand		Lath	Shingles
			Redwood	Douglas fir	Port Orford cedar	Sitka spruce	White fir	Ponderosa pine	Sugar pine	Alder	Total Quantity	Total Percent		Jan.1,1942	Dec.31,1942		
	No.	No.											Percent	MBM	MBM	M pcs.	Squares
8 (50 MM and over)	3	3	322,937	50,554							373,491	63.2	0	185,766	123,605	5,403	24,702
7 (25 MM to 50 MM)	3	3	84,054	8,791			692				93,537	15.8	0	36,630	23,146	2,643	8,504
5 & 6 (10 MM to 25 MM)	3	3	25,939	24,130		2,376	756		4		53,205	9.0	0	15,280	8,200	0	0
4 (5 MM to 10 MM)	4	4	12,613	10,989	4,902						28,504	4.8	0	3,142	1,741	0	439
3 (1 MM to 5 MM)	13	9	10,061	17,206	230	1,320		144			28,961	4.9	10.9	1,976	985	0	0
2 (500 M to 1 MM)	12	10	2,487	4,742				522		820	8,571	1.5	3.0	134	26	0	1,222
1 (50 M to 500 M)	23	19	2,303	2,164				61		356	4,884	0.8	6.1	94	44	9	11,412
0 (Under 50 M)	3	3	8	78							86	0.0+	0	0	0	0	0
Shingle	11	5											35.4				17,600
All classes	75 3/	59 3/	460,402	118,654	5,132	3,696	1,448	727	4	1,176	591,239	100.0	0.5	243,022	157,747	8,055	63,879
Sampling error 2/ of estimated total production. (Percent)			0.7	2.4	2.5	19.8	4/	23.4	4/	0 5/	0.5						

1/ Redwood region includes counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, western Mendocino, Sonoma, Napa, Marin, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Monterey, and Santa Cruz. Remainder of State considered the pine region.
2/ Sampling errors are based on ± one standard error.
3/ Number of idle mills, estimated to be 21 (including one shingle mill), not included in totals.
4/ Errors not calculated for sugar pine and white fir because sampled mills in classes 0-3 did not report cut of these species.
5/ No sampling error for alder because all mills cutting alder included in sample.